

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for adaptively filtering URL messages routed across a network ~~by generating exception rules to rejection rules based on attributes of URLs within messages previously received and rejected; the URL messages rejected based on a set of rules,~~ the method comprising:

~~receiving a first message specifying a first URL component;~~

~~rejecting the first message based on a rejection rule;~~

~~maintaining a frequency for each instance of a~~ the first URL component,

wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which ~~messages containing a~~ the first URL component ~~was were~~ rejected by a rule and a number of occurrences with which ~~messages containing~~ descendants of the first URL component were rejected ~~with the rule;~~

~~selecting a URL component according to a set of constraints;~~

~~and~~generating an exception rule for the first ~~selected~~ URL component and its descendants ~~responsive to the frequency of the first URL component satisfying a set of constraints;~~

~~receiving a second message specifying the first URL component; and~~

~~allowing the second message to pass.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of constraints ~~requires is selecting a URL component with a frequency exceeding a threshold and having no children with a frequency above the threshold.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of constraints ~~is selecting a URL component with~~ requires a frequency exceeding a threshold.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising applying the exception rule to determine whether to allow the selected URL component and its descendants.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the threshold is a product of a total number of URL messages over a time interval and a percentage of the messages that should be allowed.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the exception rule is generated by inferencing a scalar data type of the descendants of the selected URL component.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency is a direct count of the occurrences of the URL component.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency is a weighted count of the occurrences of the URL component.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for adaptively filtering URL messages routed across a network by generating exception rules to rejection rules based on attributes of URLs within messages previously received and rejected; the URL messages rejected based on a set of rules, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of messages, each message specifying a first URL component;

rejecting the plurality of messages;

storing rejected URLs in a trie structure, wherein each node in the trie structure is associated with a URL component;

maintaining a frequency for each node associated with a URL component, wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which a URL component associated with a node ~~was~~ were rejected ~~with a rule~~ and a number of occurrences with which descendants of the URL component were rejected ~~with the rule~~;

~~selecting a node in the trie structure according to a set of constraints; and~~

generating an exception rule for the selected a node associated with the first URL component and its descendants responsive to the frequency of the first URL component satisfying a set of constraints;-

receiving a message specifying the first URL component; and  
allowing the message to pass.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising applying the exception rule to determine whether to allow the selected node and its descendants.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the set of constraints ~~is selecting a node with~~ requires a number of occurrences exceeding a threshold.

12. ((Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the set of constraints ~~is selecting a node with~~ requires a number of occurrences exceeding a threshold and having no children with a number of occurrences above the threshold.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the threshold is a product of a total number of URL messages over a time interval and a percentage of the messages that should be allowed to pass.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the exception rule is generated by inferencing a scalar data type of the descendants of the selected URL component.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the frequency is a direct count of a number of occurrences of the URL component.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the frequency is a weighted count of a number of occurrences of the URL component.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for adaptively filtering URL messages routed across a network, by generating exception rules to rejection rules based on attributes of URLs within messages previously received and rejected ~~the URL messages rejected based on a set of rules,~~ the system comprising:

a learning engine adapted to perform the steps of:

storing rejected URLs in a trie structure, wherein each node in the trie structure is associated with a URL component;  
maintaining a frequency for each node associated with a URL component, wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which a URL component associated with a node were rejected and a number of occurrences with which descendants of the URL component were rejected, and  
~~selecting a node according to a set of constraints; and~~  
generating an exception rule for ~~the selected a first~~ node and its descendants, responsive to the frequency of the URL component associated with the first node satisfying a set of constraints; and  
a filter configured to apply the exception rule to determine whether to allow the ~~selected first~~ node and its descendants.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the set of constraints ~~is~~ selecting a node with requires a number of occurrences exceeding a threshold and having no children with a number of occurrences above the threshold.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the set of constraints requires ~~is selecting a node with~~ a frequency exceeding a threshold.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the threshold is a product of a total number of URL messages over a time interval and a percentage of the messages that should be allowed.

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the exception rule is generated by inferencing a scalar data type of the descendants of the selected node.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the frequency is a direct count of the number of occurrences of the URL component.

24. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the frequency is a weighted count of the number of occurrences of the URL component.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising: a computer-readable medium having computer program code embodied therein for adaptively filtering URL messages routed across a network by generating exception rules to rejection rules based on attributes of URLs within messages previously received and rejected; ~~the URL messages rejected based on a set of rules,~~ the computer program code adapted to:

store rejected URLs in a trie structure, wherein each node in the trie structure is associated with a URL component and each node associated with a URL component maintains a frequency, wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which a URL component associated with a node ~~was were rejected by a rule and a number of occurrences with which descendants of the URL component were rejected with the rule;~~ select a node according to a set of constraints; and generate an exception rule for ~~the selected~~ a first node and its descendants responsive to the frequency of the a URL component associated with the first node satisfying a set of constraints.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein each node associated with a URL component maintains a frequency, wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which a URL component associated with a node ~~was rejected by a rule and a number of occurrences with which descendants of the URL component were rejected with the rule.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the set of constraints ~~is selecting a node with~~ requires a frequency exceeding a threshold and having no children with a frequency above the threshold.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the set of constraints ~~is selecting a node with~~requires a frequency exceeding a threshold.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the computer program code is further adapted to apply the exception rule to determine whether to allow the selected node and its descendants to pass.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the threshold is a product of a total number of URL messages over a time interval and a percentage of the messages that should be allowed to pass.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the exception rule is generated by inferencing a scalar data type of the descendants of the selected node.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for adaptively filtering URL messages routed across a network; by generating exception rules to rejection rules based on attributes of URLs within messages previously received and rejected~~the URL messages rejected based on a set of rules~~, the method comprising:

storing rejected URLs in a trie structure, wherein each node in the trie structure is associated with a URL component; and each node associated with a URL component maintains a frequency, wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which a URL component associated with a node was rejected; and

~~selecting a node in the trie structure according to a set of constraints; and~~  
generating an exception rule for ~~the selected~~a first node and its descendants, responsive to the frequency of the URL component associated with the first node satisfying a set of constraints.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising maintaining a frequency for each node associated with a URL component, wherein the frequency is a function of a number of occurrences with which a URL component associated with a node was

~~rejected by a rule and a number of occurrences with which descendants of the URL component were rejected with the rule.~~

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising applying the exception rule to determine whether to allow the selected node and its descendants.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the set of constraints is ~~selecting a node with~~requires a number of occurrences exceeding a threshold.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the set of constraints is ~~selecting a node with~~requires a number of occurrences exceeding a threshold and having no children with a number of occurrences above the threshold.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the threshold is a product of a total number of URL messages over a time interval and a percentage of the messages that should be allowed.

38. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the exception rule is generated by inferencing a scalar data type of the descendants of the selected URL component.

39. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the frequency is a direct count of the number of occurrences of the URL component associated with the selected node.

40. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the frequency is a weighted count of the number of occurrences of the URL component associated with the selected node.